

## A NEW FREE-TAILED BAT FROM TEXAS

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A recent study of Texan Chiroptera has resulted in the discovery of a form that appears to be new. The species is here described.

*TADARIDA TEXANA*, sp. nov.

Texan Free-tailed Bat.

Type: Female adult, skin and skull, no. 6064, Los Angeles County Museum, from Ney Cave, 20 miles north of Hondo, Medina County, Texas, August 5, 1938. Collected by Kenneth E. Stager, original number 759.

Range: Known only from the type locality.

External characters: Slightly larger than *Tadarida mexicana*. Ear is noticeably larger and broader. When laid forward reaches to the end of rostrum. Compared with a series of female skins of *Tadarida mexicana*, all external measurements of *Tadarida texana* average greater. The ear character and the longer tibia tends to separate the species from *Tadarida cynocephala*.

Cranial characters: Skull similar to that of *Tadarida mexicana*, but with measurements averaging slightly greater. *Tadarida texana* shows the tendency for reduction of number of lower incisors as do other members of the *brasiliensis* group. Of twelve skulls examined, all have two incisors on each side of the lower jaw instead of three, with one exception which has a third incisor present on the left side, making a total of five.

Color: Type, summer pelage: Dorsal area "Sayal Brown" (of Ridgway); ventral area, lighter; near "Tawny Olive" (of Ridgway). Examination of series, including type, shows a color range from near "Tawny Olive" to shade slightly darker than "Sayal Brown." Membranes, ears, and tail are a deep black.

Measurements: Average of 12 adult females from the type locality: Total length 95.3 (102-91); tail 38.0 (44-33); foot 9.9 (10.5-9); ear 19.0 (20-18); tibia 12.7 (13.5-11.5); radius 42.0 (43-41). Skull: Average of 12 adult females from type locality: Greatest length 16.7 (17.3-16.1); zygomatic breadth 9.8 (11.1-9.5); interorbital breadth 4.0 (4.2-3.7); breadth of braincase 8.1 (8.5-7.8); basilar length 13.7 (14.3-13.4); maxillary toothrow 7.0 (7.2-6.1); breadth at canines 4.2 (4.5-4.0); length of mandible 11.6 (12.3-11.1); mandibular toothrow 7.1 (7.4-7.0).

Remarks: The very decidedly "golden" color of the pelage of *Tadarida texana* immediately separates it from *Tadarida mexicana*. The latter has a color range from "Chaetura Black" to "Mummy Brown."

The colony from which the species was secured, conservatively numbers into the millions of individuals and apparently consists of two species, *Tadarida texana* and *Tadarida mexicana*. All specimens of *Tadarida texana* examined proved to be adult females. Of individuals observed, approximately 50% of colony appeared to be *Tadarida texana*.

Specimens examined: Twelve skins with skulls and one alcoholic. Type specimen in Los Angeles County Museum collection, eleven skins and one alcoholic, paratypes in Stager collection, Los Angeles County Museum.

